

Orange County Radio Amateurs (OCRA) Newsletter

April 2008

From the Editor

I hope to see each of you at the April OCRA meeting. One of the primary areas of discussion will be Field Day preparations. After all, Field Day is only two months away!

Please remember that all articles for the May newsletter will be due on April 30. I invite those of you who have not submitted an article in the past to consider doing so. Your participation and contributions will help continue to make the newsletter successful.

Get comfortable and read through your club's newsletter. And, remember – get radio active!

Best regards,
Laurie - N1YXU
lbmeier@bellsouth.net

Summary of the March Meeting

The March OCRA meeting was held on Monday, March 10. There were quite a few topics discussed at the meeting. Summaries are shown below:

- 1 Dan (KR4UB) reported a healthy club bank balance in the Treasurer's report. A recommendation was made to hold a minimum of \$2,500 in case of issues that need to be addressed. Further investigation will take place to determine what type of bank account to hold the funds and insure accessibility, if needed.
- 2 Club QSL cards were discussed. Further in this newsletter, you will find an article that discusses the QSL card in detail and provides a picture of the new club QSL card.
- 3 Woody (K3VSA) provided updates on the ARES website and the possibility of the club getting its own, dedicated URL. Further discussions will take place with local hosting companies to determine the costs.
- 4 OCRA will be purchasing two tables at the RARSfest on Saturday, April 12. We will get an update at the April club meeting from those who attend the hamfest.
- 5 A committee has been established to investigate the possibility of having an OCRA communications trailer. More information to follow.
- 6 Field Day preparations was discussed by our Field Day Coordinator, Dave (W4SAR). You will read a full article in this month's newsletter regarding Field Day. Please consider volunteering to be a band captain or to fill other roles that are needed. Field Day will be one of the primary topics at the April meeting.
- 7 The OCRA cup was presented to Kate (KD4LLM) from Meg (KD4LLL) for her continued encouragement as Meg has pursued amateur radio and helping foster the hobby at her school. Kate – Sincere congratulations!
- 8 Show and Tell included a radio "go kit" that Dee (KU4GC) has in his primary vehicle. It includes radio manuals, an OCRA club directory, net directions, ARRL band plan, traffic handling information, and more. Copies of the information are also included in his office and other vehicles. Dee – Thank you for sharing this wonderful idea and inspiring all of us to truly be better prepared.
- 9 Dave (W4SAR) provided the paper contest for the month. The subject of the paper contest included specific Revolutionary War related questions and how they are affiliated with North Carolina. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the contest and learned quite a bit of history. [Dave – Thank you very much for all your efforts in putting the paper

contest together!] Congratulations to Woody (K3VSA) and Tommie (AI4MW) for the highest scores in the paper contest.

The April OCRA meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, at the Sunrise Church beginning at 7:30 pm. The weekly Orange County ARES net meets on Saturdays at 9:30 am local on the W4UNC repeater [442.150MHz with a PL tone of 131.8Hz]. All licensed amateur radio operators are invited and encouraged to check in.

Field Day 2008

by Dave Snyder, W4SAR
Field Day Coordinator

Plans for Field Day 2008 are humming along! The band captain list stands as:

Steve, KZ1X: 40m CW
Joe, K4SAR: 80M CW
Ken, KR4FM: 20m Digi
Dave, W4SAR: 15/40 Digi
Rob, N4ZAK: 10M Phone
Ted, KE4NBB & Russ KF4WXD: 20M SSB
Gerry, KD4YJV: 40/15m SSB
Dave, W4SAR: 80m SSB
Chris, KG4CFX: VHF/UHF
Katherine, KI4LLM: GOTA

If anyone else wants to add an additional band/mode and act as a band captain, let me know by our next club meeting. The job of band captain is to assure that a station for that particular band and mode is set up and manned for Field Day. They also must get the logs and dupe sheet results to me no later than the July OCRA meeting.

Starting this year, band captains will receive a three ring binder which will contain a copy of the Field Day Rules, log sheets and dupe sheets (as a back-up to electronic logging), sign-up sheets for operators (we should document all guests, and bonus points are on the line for documenting ops <18 years of age). In addition, a form will be provided for a detailed description of your station set-up. This will include the transceiver, power supply, antenna types, logging set-up. Letting us know in advance if your setup requires the use of the bucket truck and/or trees will help in planning placement of the stations at the site. A comments section on the performance of the station will be useful for future Field Days.

We will discuss at the next meeting what bonus points we will strive for, and who will take on the responsibility for each. Dee, KU4GC will once again provide his marvelous logistical support in keeping us all well fed and well hydrated, he'll let us know what assistance he requires along those lines.

One last new thing, there is now a link on the ARRL website allowing the public to locate field Day sites on the map. Go to the following link:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

Go to the state drop down list and under North Carolina you'll find our site on the list, pinpointed on the map and linked to our club website. We can still edit our information on that site if necessary. I am enthusiastically looking forward to this year's Field Day and I look forward to working with you all!

W4EZ/W4UNC QSL Card

by Bruce Meier, N1LN

If you attended last month's OCRA club meeting, you already heard the discussion about having QSL cards printed for the club. If you were not there, the discussion focused on whether or not the club needs to have a QSL cards printed and ready to mail, should we receive any requests. This discussion was initiated because of the quantity of cards that have already been received for QSOs made during the North Carolina QSO Party on Saturday, February 24. So far, we have received **25** cards requesting QSLs. Well, the club agreed that cards were needed, and I volunteered to both design and coordinate the printing and purchasing of the cards. Additionally, I volunteered to be the club QSL manager. I am happy to report that our new cards have arrived. The following pictures show both the front and back of the cards. No, they are not flashy, but they are very reasonably priced and meet the current needs of OCRA.

NOTE: The QSL is really ORANGE with BLACK print. Our scanner color is a bit off ☺

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One more comment regarding the North Carolina QSO Party. All log submissions had to be received by the coordinating organization by April 1, and the results should be posted by May 15. Hopefully, I will have that information and include an update in next month's OCRA Newsletter.

2008 OCRA Officers and Board Members

Officers:

Woody Woodward, K3VSA – President
Ken Kauffmann, KR4FM – Vice President
Dan Eddleman, KR4UB - Treasurer
Laurie Meier, N1YXU - Secretary

Board Members:

Justin Heinecke, KD4CPM, One year term remaining
Gary Pielak, AI4GT, One year term remaining
Robert Little, N4ZAK, Two year term remaining
Brian McLamb, KI4YSZ, Two year term remaining